

## ISOLATED PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES HAVING HOMOLOGY TO THE NIP2 PROTEIN AND USES THEREOF

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### Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides isolated nucleic acids molecules, designated NIP2b, NIP2cL, and NIP2cS nucleic acid molecules, which encode novel NIP2 family members. The invention also provides antisense nucleic acid molecules, recombinant expression vectors  
10 containing NIP2b, NIP2cL, and NIP2cS nucleic acid molecules, host cells into which the expression vectors have been introduced, and nonhuman transgenic animals in which a NIP2b, NIP2cL, and NIP2cS gene has been introduced or disrupted. The invention still further provides isolated NIP2b, NIP2cL, and NIP2cS proteins, fusion proteins, antigenic peptides and anti-NIP2b, NIP2cL, and NIP2cS antibodies. Diagnostic methods utilizing  
15 compositions of the invention are also provided.